(b) Government have no knowledge of such a development. However, a news item to this effect, quoting a FEII spokesman, has appeared in Economic Times of February 13, 1989.

(c) No, Sir.

Withdrawal of Concessions granted to Small Scale Industrial Units of Soft Drinks Industry

2568. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that excise concessions granted to Small Scale Industrial Units of Soft drinks industry were suddenly withdrawn;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 44 small units in the organised sector have come up in the backward areas;

(c) whether it is a fact that these units not only made losses but were facing liquidity problems due to unexpected demand on their finances following the withdrawal of the excise concessions; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to mitigate the hardships of such small scale industrial units in repaying their loans to the financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The excise concession in respect of small scale manufacturers including soft drink industry affixing on their goods the brand names or trade names (registered or not) of other persons who is not eligible for grant of exemption under the Department of Revenue Notification of 1st March, 1986 has been withdrawn.

(b) and (c) The requisite information is not centrally maintained.

(d) There are certain facilities and concessions available to sick small scale industrial units and these facilities and concessions are equally applicable to units in the soft drink industry as well.

Coverage of Chief Ministers Conference

2569. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. T. Rama Rao, spoke in the meeting of the Chief Ministers held in Delhi on 10th and 11th February, 1989; and

(b) if so, the reasons for which his speech alone was blocked in the Doordarshan's English News-Bulletin at 9.30 P.M. on 10th February, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The views expressed by Shri N. T. Rama Rao, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh, were prominently covered in the English News bulletin telecast at 9.30 P. M. on 10-2-89.

Aid to Deep Sea Fishing Industry

2570. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the causes for economic sickness in the deep sea fishing industry considering the latest fishing season failure in 1988-89;

(b) whether Government are seized of the problems;

(c) what steps are being taken to call a conference of all deep sea units to solve their problems; and

(d) the measures being taken to give liberal aid to sick units in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) Although there is a marginal fall in marine fish catch during